



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1972



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1972

Chairman of the Council : Councillor G. J. F. Stallard J. P.

HEALTH AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor T. C. Costello

COUNCILLORS

Councillor F. Bailey	Councillor W. Faulkner C. C.
Councillor H. Dale	Councillor D. K. Moore
Councillor C. V. Davenport	Councillor J. McTelfer
Councillor Mrs. H. Davies	Councillor Miss C. L. Tingcombe
Councillor Mrs. M. Davies	Councillor R. Whiteley

and the above Chairmen

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

J. E. O'MALLEY M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Northwich Rural District Council, Northwich Urban District Council, Winsford Urban District Council, Runcorn Rural District Council and Runcorn Urban District Council.

and Divisional Medical Officer to the  
Mid-Cheshire and Runcorn Divisions

Public Health Inspector

F. Costello





URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

Telephone No.:  
Northwich 3961

County Offices,  
Watling Street,  
NORTHWICH,  
Cheshire.

August, 1973

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Middlewich Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

During the year further consolidation of existing health services has taken place but day to day work has to a great extent been overshadowed by the impending re-organisation of Local Government and the National Health Service both scheduled to take place on 1st April, 1974.

Primary health team care is now accepted as the normal pattern of general practice throughout the country. Groups of general practitioners with attached nursing staff comprising health visitors, district nurses and midwives work together as a team either from purpose built health centres or from group practice premises.

As many of the problems which present themselves to the general practitioner have as their main element a social factor or cause it is important that the links between the health services and social services department continue to be strengthened. In many health centres and county clinics accommodation has been provided for the social services department to hold family advisory sessions. It is important that all primary health care teams are able to obtain regular help from a member of the social services department. One way of achieving this is for a nominated social services officer to be responsible for regular contact with particular group practices. This is already taking place in certain parts of the county and its extension is not only desirable but essential. Anticipating closer links between the new national health service and the social services departments of local authorities after the 1st, April, 1974, this is one example of the way in which the two services can be brought closer together for the benefit of the patient or the client.

The integrated child health screening programme introduced on the 1st January, 1972, is working well. Children are screened at pre-determined ages and these simple checks are undertaken alternately by doctors and nurses who have received special training. The child is seen at the age of 6 weeks, 9 months, 2 years and 3 years. At 4½ years he will be invited for a pre-school medical examination as at present.

Other screening procedures have been continued and extended. These include arrangements for cervical cytology and the testing of female staff from schools and other departments for their immunity to Rubella. The latter can now be offered vaccination which gives protection to subsequent unborn children from the adverse effects of German Measles.

The greater part of this report deals with a wide variety of environmental health matters which have been dealt with during the year. The supervision and surveillance of communicable diseases cases and contacts continues to demand a considerable portion of the time of the Public Health Inspectors. The importation of infectious diseases from tropical and sub-tropical regions is a constant hazard especially due to the rapidity of modern air travel and such serious diseases as smallpox can be introduced into the country in this way. The trend for foreign holidays continues and this in turn is reflected in an increase in the work of the Public Health Inspectorate in this important aspect of the control of communicable disease.

It is my opinion that the radical changes which will occur in traditional public health departments in 1974 has been made possible only by the painstaking work of the Public Health Inspectors on the one hand and by the continued programme of immunisation and vaccination on the other. The general public now take for granted and indeed demand clean air, clean food, clean water and many other aspects of a healthy environment.

It is only by thorough day to day work that the public health inspectors have been able to bring this about and they are to be congratulated on the many successes which they have achieved in the environmental field since 1948. It is absolutely essential that their work continues and that after 1st April, 1974 the closest links are maintained between the new local government district environmental officers and the medical officers of the new Area Health Authority. There are still many serious infectious diseases and conditions which for their control need the closest co-operation between Doctors and Public Health Inspectors.

My thanks are due to Mr. Costello the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their loyalty and support, to the Clerk and Chief Officers of the Council for their help and advice and to the Chairman and Members of the Committee for their constant co-operation.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

J. E. O'MALLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.



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# SECTION I

## GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

### (1) GENERAL STATISTICS

#### Comparative Statistics - 1971/72

	Year	
	1971	1972
Population (Estimated)	7,783	7,630
Rateable Value	£341,634	£978,003
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated)	£3,488	£9,276
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,689	2,733
Area of District (Acres)	1,971	1,971

### (2) VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
Legitimate	47	49	96	
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	
	52	52	104	
	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population			13.6	
+Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 0.99)			13.5	14.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births			8.0	
<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	1	1	2	
<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	-	-	-	
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	-	-	-	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total Live Births	-	-	-	17.0

+ See Page 2.

Maternal Deaths (including abortion) .. .. . 1

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
All Causes	48	46	94	
Death Rate per 1,000 population			12.3	
+Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.16)			14.3	12.1

+NOTE: The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

#### Causes of Death

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity	1	-	1
2. Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	1	1	2
3. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	-	2
4. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	4	4
5. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2
6. Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	2	3
7. Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
8. Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	1
9. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	-	1
10. Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
11. Ischaemic Heart Disease	13	4	17
12. Other Forms of Heart Disease	10	3	13
13. Cerebrovascular Disease	7	11	18
14. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	3	4
15. Influenza	1	-	1
16. Pneumonia	1	3	4
17. Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	2	7
18. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
19. Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	3	3
20. Abortion	-	1	1
21. Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	2	2
22. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
23. Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>48</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>94</u>



## SECTION II

### HEALTH SERVICES

(1) Information concerning the statutory and voluntary Health and Welfare Services in the area may be obtained from the Divisional Medical Office, County Offices, Watling Street, Northwich. Telephone number - Northwich 3961.

#### (2) HOSPITAL FACILITIES

The Middlewich Urban District lies within the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board whose offices are at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8. Telephone number - Deansgate 7271.

#### (3) GENERAL PRACTITIONER SERVICES

The District lies within the area of the Cheshire Executive Council, whose offices are at 28 Nicholas Street, Chester. Telephone number - Chester 23158.

#### (4) AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and is under radio control from central control at County Hall, Chester. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected to this central control. The arrangement for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring the Northwich Depot - Telephone number : Northwich 3355.

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## SECTION III

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

#### Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

With regard to the expeditious procedure as laid down in the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, the Medical Officer of Health or any duly qualified person acting for the Medical Officer of Health is authorised by the Council to make the requisite application to a Justice of the Peace.

#### Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.

## S E C T I O N    I V

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

#### (1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following are the infectious diseases notified for the years 1971 and 1972:

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1971	1972
Measles	8	32
Scarlet Fever	1	-

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## S E C T I O N    V

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### (1) WATER SUPPLY

The water is provided by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board whose offices are at Weaverham Grange, Hartford, Northwich.

The water supplied to the district was satisfactory in quantity and does not have a plumbo-solvent action. During the year 7 samples were taken by our own Health Department and 27 by the Water Board. All were bacteriologically satisfactory.

There are no dwellinghouses in the district supplied by means of standpipes.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Surveyor reports that the Official opening of the Water Pollution Control Works in Prosperity Way, took place in May, 1972. Over a period of a few months the six pumping stations came into use and by the Autumn, the whole of the towns' sewerage system was connected to the works and all sewage being treated. A full appraisal of the working of the system had not been made by the end of the year, but so far as could be ascertained, with the exception of sludge treatment which was tending to be in excess of that envisaged, other matters were operating up to estimates. The designed dry weather flow of 590,000 gallons per day had not been reached and therefore a considerable amount of recirculation takes place. Extensions to the sludge treatment plant may become necessary in the near future.

#### Existing Sewers

Maintenance work was necessary on some of the old remaining sewers during the year and it became evident that the Warmingham Lane System has reached its full capacity and at times is liable to surcharge. The usual points of flooding in the town seem now to have been cured, except during one period of exceptionally heavy rain. No flooding has taken place at Brooks Lane, Wych House Yard, Sutton Lane, Booth Lane or Croxton Lane.



## Surface Water Flooding

Concern must continue to be expressed at the surcharging of the Cledford drain between Alexandra Road and Warmingham Lane, as reported last year and this can only be avoided by the provision of new stormwater facilities to the north. Further flooding has not taken place at the Kinderton Culvert, although it is still a point where adverse conditions could cause a considerable amount of surcharging. A stormwater sewer in Warmingham Lane is rapidly reaching its maximum capacity and has surcharged at occasional periods, although flooding has not taken place from this pipe.

### (3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

There are still six pail closets in the district which are situated too far from any sewers to be able to be converted into water closets.

### (4) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year. During the year 230 bins with rubber lids were sold to householders. All surplus and obsolete furniture is collected free of charge and facilities are granted at the refuse tip for the disposal of garden and shop refuse. An ample supply of soil was available for "cover" and the tip was maintained free of nuisance.

Details of the Croxton Lane tip were submitted to the River Authority, Institute of Geological Sciences and the Department of the Environment. All Authorities agreed that there is no possibility of polluting water supplies and the tip may continue to be used.

Refuse collection is by two Karrier dual tipper vehicles with compression plates. Salvage is kept separate from refuse and about 100 tons of paper and rags were sold for £990.

### (5) PETROLEUM STORAGE

Sixteen licences were issued for the bulk storage of petroleum. One tank ceased to be used and was made safe. The fees amounted to £50. All installations were inspected.

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## H O U S I N G

### PROVISION OF NEW HOUSES

#### Private Housing

No detailed plans have yet been approved for the commencement of permanent housing other than the odd infill site. Planning Briefs in respect of approximately 100 acres of land zoned in the Town Map for residential development, are under consideration by the County Planning Director.

#### Council Housing

32 one bedroomed flats and 6 two bedroomed bungalows were completed in Queens Drive and Dale Court, thus considerably reducing the number of applicants on the "Waiting List".

#### Housing Improvements

Work continued throughout the year on the modernisation of Nos. 40 to 66 Webbs Lane (14 houses) which block had been purchased by the Council for this purpose. A contract was commenced for the complete modernisation of 48 houses in St. Anns Avenue, being pre-war houses and schemes were being prepared for all other pre-war Council Houses. Central Heating was installed in 8 bungalows in Alexandra Road.



## Housing in General

There is no known overcrowding in the district.

During the year the Council made loans on 31 dwellings under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958. These loans amounting in total to £53,293. Ten standard and 8 discretionary grants were made amounting to £9,045. The average number of persons per dwelling was 2.75.

## Slum Clearance

The families were completely re-housed from 11 houses in Croxton Lane, six houses in Sutton Lane and 3 houses at Seabank, all of which had been condemned.

Negotiations were taking place over the re-development of the Croxton Lane and Sutton Lane sites and the Council was acquiring the Seabank site to add to the Car Park. The families were re-housed from nos. 15 and 19 Wheelock Street on which there were "Closing Orders" and plans for site development were being prepared.

A total of 303 sub-standard houses have been condemned and demolished since the war, which is equal to 18% of the total of pre-war houses in the district. Slum clearance, together with improvement grants and demolitions for road purposes have combined to give Middleswich a very high standard of housing with few sub-standard properties still to be dealt with.

## Qualification Certificates - Housing Act, 1969

One application only was received and this was not granted, the property was not complying with the Act.

## House Letting

The Council has a "Points Scheme" for the selection of tenants for Council dwellings. At the end of the year the list of local applicants was 55 families, of which only 20 were in lodgings, the remainder being tenants of private houses or tenants of council dwellings and desiring either larger houses or bungalows.

## Caravan Sites

There is one site on the outskirts of the district which is licenced in accordance with Model Standards 1960. The area is about three-quarters of an acre and holds nine caravans, all of which have indoor toilets, water supply, drainage and electricity.

## Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

## Pet Animals Act, 1951

There is one Pet Shop licenced in the district at which it was agreed not to have dogs or cats.

## Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

There are two Dealers Registered under this Act.

### Destruction of Rats and Mice

All Business Premises, Farms and almost one third of dwellings were inspected at least once and treatments given as required. Treatments at Business Premises and Farms are charged for, but private dwellings are treated free of cost.

A test baiting of 15% of all sewer manholes was made and in no cases was there any "take".

### Smoke Abatement

No complaints were received during the year.

### Health Precautions

Seven visits were made and various specimens were examined at the Public Health Laboratory for specific conditions relating to health. In all cases the patients recovered and became free from infection.

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S E C T I O N VI

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4. and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	44	15	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	5	3	-	-
Total	49	18	1	-

New Industry

Further small extensions were approved for British Salt Ltd. and also for Ideal Standards Ltd. and a Road Haulage firm which set up business in the Town. A re-organisation at Messrs Batteys Newton Works resulted in a run down from a manufacturing point of view.

Complaints

Various works were carried out and new plant installed at two factories from which there had been an emission of salt dust. These improvements appeared to have successfully remedied the complaints.



2. Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORKERS

There are no outworkers registered with the Authority.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

The Act applies to 66 premises, all of which have been registered. A total of 169 persons are employed in these premises, 45 males and 124 females. 20 visits were made in connection with this Act.

S E C T I O N    VII

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK

13 Dealers are registered in the district under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

There are no dairy herds from which the milk is sold raw to the public.

The following tables show the results of tests on samples of milk taken by the County Council.

TABLE I

Type of Test	Taken by C. C.	
	Satis.	Unsatis.
1. Methylene Blue	64	1
2. Phosphatase	11	-
3. Turbidity	1	-

1. Measures the keeping quality of the milk.
2. Measures the efficiency of the Pasteurisation process.
3. Measures the efficiency of the Sterilising process.

(b) ICE-CREAM

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the only ice-cream sold is pre-wrapped. 6 samples were taken in the district and submitted to the Chester Public Health Laboratory. These were satisfactory and placed in Provisional Grade as follows:-

Provisional Grade 1    ..    ..    6

(c) MEAT

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of 122 various tins of food. These condemned foods are collected and disposed of at the refuse tip.

## Food Premises

The undermentioned food premises are in use in the Middlewich District.

### Schedule of premises subject to Regs. 16 & 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Complying with Reg. 16</u>	<u>Reg. 19 Applies</u>	<u>Complying with Reg. 19</u>
Butchers Shop	6	6	6	6
Bakehouses	3	3	3	3
Schools	5	5	5	5
Fish and Chip Shops	3	3	3	3
Grocery Shops	22	22	22	22
Chocolate and Sweets	6	6	-	-
Public Houses	15	15	-	-
Clubs and Licenced Bars	3	3	-	-
Greengrocers	4	4	-	-
Chemist Shops	3	3	-	-

These descriptions only indicate the main type of food sold in each shop.

### Registered Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream .. ..	22
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies, etc...	15
Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1959-60 .. .. .	1
Registered Milk Dealers .. .. .	14

All bakehouses and food premises are regularly inspected and are well maintained.

## OTHER FOODS

The County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors took samples of 34 varied articles of food in the Middlewich Urban District during 1972. All the samples were up to standard.

J. E. O'MALLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

F. COSTELLO,

Public Health Inspector.



